

# WHAT THEY ARE SAYING: TENNESSEE CERTIFICATE OF NEED REFORM



Tennessee's Certificate of Need (CON) Reform Working Group recently released a report and adjoining plan that will serve as the basis for legislation in the 113th General Assembly to reform the state's remaining CON laws. The recommendations outlined in the Working Group's plan are being praised as significant reform that will increase access to affordable, high-quality care across the Volunteer State.

## Here's what key voices on the issue are saying about the Working Group's plan and CON reform in general:



"Beacon fully supports the certificate-of-need working group's report calling for major changes to CON laws that will expand access to quality healthcare across our state, particularly in rural areas. We thank Lt. Gov. McNally and Speaker Sexton for forming the working group, and we applaud the group's members for a job well done."

▶ [Justin Owen, Beacon Center of Tennessee](#)



"By all objective measures, Certificate of Need (CON) laws serve no other purpose than to limit patient access to healthcare by shielding incumbent providers from competition in the marketplace. Fortunately for Tennesseans, a legislative working group recently released recommendations that include repealing many of the state's remaining CON laws. Implementing the working group's recommendations can't come soon enough for consumers of healthcare in the Volunteer State."

▶ [Matthew Kandrach, Consumer Action for a Strong Economy](#)



"Repealing CON requirements for vital healthcare services and facilities like acute care hospitals and freestanding emergency departments (FSEDs) is critical to ensuring access to care keeps pace with the state's growing population. The thoughtful recommendations outlined in the CON Reform Working Group's plan represent significant progress toward that end. CFIF strongly supports the working group's recommendations and urges the 113th General Assembly to pass legislation reflecting those recommendations to help ensure Tennesseans across the state have access to the care they depend on."

▶ [Jeff Mazzella, Center for Individual Freedom](#)



"The Institute for Justice welcomes the certificate of need reforms recommended by the report. As has been well-documented across the country, repealing certificate of need laws increases access to healthcare, reduces costs for patients, and improves the quality of services provided. The working group's recommendations serve the interests of all Tennesseans and should be made a legislative priority this year."

▶ [Meagan Forbes, Institute for Justice](#)



“The working group report properly recognizes that CON reform is necessary because CON laws decrease access to healthcare in Tennessee. CON laws also increase healthcare costs and result in lower quality services. Pacific Legal Foundation urges the General Assembly to adopt the report’s reforms. Adoption of the reforms will be an important milestone on the journey toward full CON repeal.”

▶ [Jaimie Cavanaugh, Pacific Legal Foundation](#)

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“Patients benefit from a system in which health care providers have more, rather than less, competition. In a state like Tennessee with its rapidly growing population, removing government-imposed barriers to affordable and timely health care is critical. The major reforms outlined in the recently released Certificate of Need (CON) Reform Working Group’s report are needed now more than ever.”

▶ [Sally Pipes, Pacific Research Institute](#)

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“Repealing the state’s anticompetitive CON regulations for critical services and facilities will help ensure Tennessee residents can continue to access the healthcare services they rely on and enable Tennessee’s healthcare system to meet increased demand in growing communities across the state. We applaud the CON Reform Working Group’s report as it represents significant progress toward that end. ... We urge Governor Lee and the General Assembly to pass legislation this session reflecting the recommendations in the Working Group’s report to increase access to healthcare services for Tennessee patients.”

▶ [David Williams, Taxpayers Protection Alliance](#)

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“Unelected bureaucrats are the problem, not the solution in healthcare. I’m pleased to see the TN CON Reform Working Group recommend REAL reform in their report. Now is the time for the General Assembly to finish the job and repeal harmful CON regulations!”

▶ [Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Knox County](#)

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“While Gov. Bill Lee waived some aspects of Tennessee’s CON laws during the pandemic preparations, it was only a limited and temporary measure. CON laws in Tennessee are a clear invitation for existing health care providers to suppress competition, which would benefit consumers and workers.”

▶ [Dr. Daniel Smith, Middle Tennessee State University](#)

(\*note – as an academic researcher, Dr. Smith does not endorse specific legislation.)

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“We’re pleased the TN CON Working Group recognizes the need to increase access to care. Their recent report calls for eliminating CON requirements for critical facilities & services. We urge legislators in Nashville to pass legislation to make this a reality for all Tennesseans!”

▶ [Healthy Tennessee](#)